

*Presentation
to the*

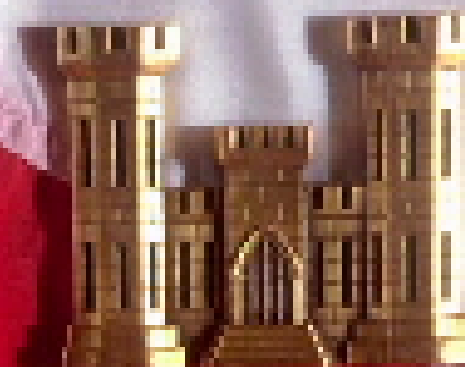
Gulf of Mexico Program Management Committee

by

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9 July 2008



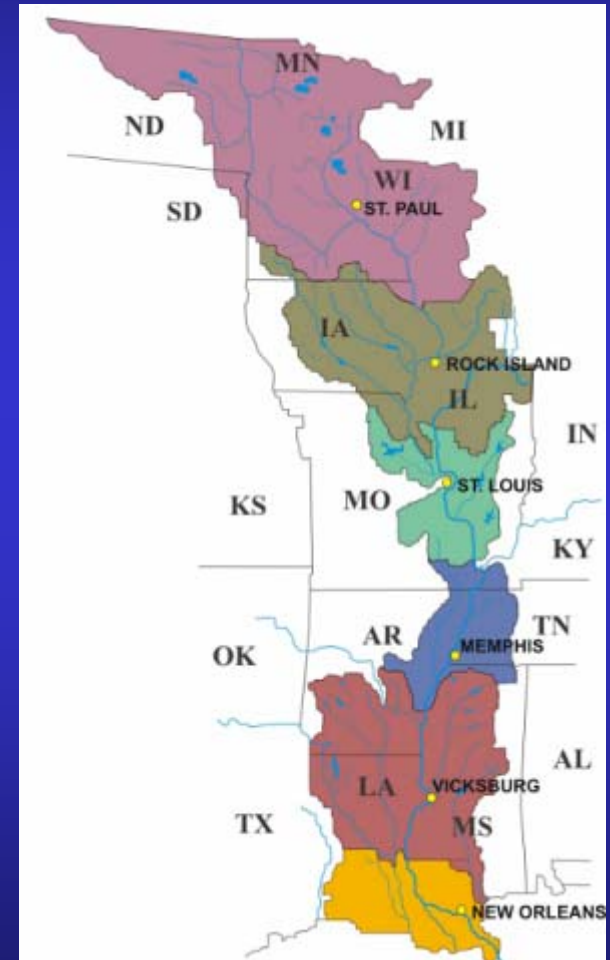


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Mississippi Valley Division



- Six districts
- 5,000+ employees
- 370,000 square mile boundary, encompassing all or parts of 12 states
- 4,267 miles of commercial waterways
- 44 flood control lakes/reservoirs



One Team: Relevant, Ready, Responsive and Reliable



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**Larry E. Parson, USACE,
Mobile District Coastal Environment Team**

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Habitat Conservation & Restoration Team

Gulf Region Sediment Management Master Plan



Gulf of Mexico Alliance Habitat Conservation and Restoration Team (HCRT)

- Develop, facilitate and assess the implementation of the Gulf Regional Sediment Management Master Plan (GRSMMP) to provide for more effective use sediment resources for habitat conservation and restoration
 - Provide guidelines for RSM implementation
 - Recognizing sediment is part of a regional system involving natural processes
 - Consideration of dredging activities
- Federally led effort intended to provide guidance to Gulf States
 - Federal co-leads: USACE & USGS
 - EPA, NOAA, USFWS, MMS
 - Also involvement from state reps





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Gulf Region Sediment Management Master Plan



Goals

- Develop understanding of sediment system dynamics towards management of sediment resources
- Recommend streamlined approach for regulatory and policy processes that considers environmental restoration issues
- Facilitate effective sediment management across political boundaries
- Inventory available sediment resources and needs
- Promote information exchange about Gulf region sediment resources and related management needs
- Encourage stakeholder participation in development and implementation of sediment management strategies



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Team Activities

- Monthly Conference Calls
- Workshops
 - Scientific Assessment Workshop (Dec. 2006)
 - Identify existing information about sediment sources, their availability and characteristics
 - Mobile, AL (March 2007)
 - Develop a strategy to elevate and motivate the regional master plan
 - Alliance Workshop - St. Petersburg, FL (July 2007)
 - Identify issues associated with existing policies and authorities
 - Ecological Considerations – New Orleans, AL (March 2008)
 - Introduce the topics of Ecological Aspects of Regional Sediment Management
 - Develop TOC for first draft of GRS MMP





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Focus Areas

- **Sediment Resources**
 - Sediment Budgets - Sediment budget and related process information
 - Sediment Inventory - Compile information about existing studies and programs; sediment availability; characteristics, etc.
 - Dredging Activities - Assemble Corps and other dredging information into database
- **Ecological Components of RSM**
 - Understand affects of sediment management on ecological processes
 - Consider relationship of processes on ecological resources
- **Data/Information Management**
 - Priority Habitat INformation System (PHINS) being developed by NOAA, USGS, & USACE - Identified as platform for GRSMMP information dissemination
 - GIS tools
- **Policies, Authorities, and Funding**
 - Provide recommendations to provide more flexibility in policies, authorities, and funding mechanisms to facilitate RSM approach



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What Next?

- First draft of GRSMMP
 - August 2008
 - Based outputs from focus areas
- Consideration of additional focus areas recently identified
 - Economic considerations of RSM
 - Social considerations of RSM
- Continue development of products
- Define milestones and schedules



<http://www2.nos.noaa.gov/gomex/restoration/welcome.html>



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Hypoxia Task Force

■ Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) 2007, Section 5022, Hypoxia Assessment

Authorizes the Secretary to participate: (1) with specified parties to assess hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico; and (2) in the Potomac River Watershed Assessment and Tributary Strategy Evaluation and Monitoring Program to identify resource management indicators to accurately monitor the effectiveness of the implementation of the agreed upon tributary strategies.

- Currently no funding for this provision
- Lower priority in terms of implementation
- Potential funding in FY 2010 budget



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Hypoxia Task Force



- **WRDA 2007, Section 5022, Hypoxia Assessment**
 - 17th meeting of the Hypoxia Task Force in New Orleans (16-17 Jun 2008) - signed a new 2008 Action Plan
 - ◆ Corps is positioned well to facilitate this effort through our missions on the Mississippi River – navigation, flood control, ecosystem restoration
 - Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Works tasked Dr. David A. Vigh, MVD, Environmental Team Leader, to draft implementation guidance



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Other Celestial Meetings



<http://www.spaceweather.com/>

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